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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/609,222	06/30/2000	Masato Ochiai	35.C14602	2806

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EXAMINER

LE, HIEU C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2142

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/609,222

Applicant(s)

OCHIAI ET AL.

Examiner

Hieu c. Le

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-7,10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites "of a device on a network" line 2, and "indicating a device location", on line 7. It is not clear whether "the device" on line 2, is the same or different from "the device" on line 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-7,9,11-18,20,22-24,26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Salgado et al (US Patent 5,872,569).

As to claim 1, Salgado discloses an information processing unit for monitoring a job requested of a device on a network, comprising:

receiving means for receiving from said device first information indicating status of a job requested of said device [a user generate a job (col. 12, line33),

the user receives the status of the printer (device) associated with the job to show the operational status of the device (first information) (col. 20, lines 37-45, col. 22, lines 57-61), and second information containing hierarchical location information hierarchically indicating a device location [Fig. 12, shows a location information of the printer indicated "north printer" and in Fig 16, one of the attributes that is indicates for a device is location. The attributes are shown in terms of a pull down menus disposed in hierarchical order (col. 18, lines 10-12)]]; and control means for displaying said first information together with the device location on the basis of said second information [Fig. 12, shows printer (device) the north printer is available while printer on Bldg 2 is not available].

As to claim 2, Salgado further discloses further comprising:

storing means for storing map data corresponding to said hierarchical location information (col. 7; lines 55-63);

wherein: said control means selects map data out of said storing means on the basis of said second information and displays and superposes an icon indicating said device on the selected map data [Fig. 12, shows the display of printer (device) 284 as icon indicating the device on the map data (col. 19, lines 58-63)].

As to claim 3, Salgado further discloses wherein: said control means changes said icon display mode according to said first information [when the status indicator of the device changes the display change the icon (col. 20, lines 37-53)].

As to claim 4, Salgado further discloses further comprising:

communication means for obtaining map data corresponding to said hierarchical location information from another information processing unit [map data is stored on a server (another) information processing unit (col. 7; lines 55-63);

wherein: said control means obtains the map data based on said second information from said another information processing unit and displays and superposes the icon indicating said device on the obtained map data [the printer (device) in Fig. 12 is indicated as an icon on the map data (col. 19, lines 58-63)].

As to claim 5, refer to claim 3 rejection.

As to claim 6, Salgado further discloses wherein: said communication means further obtains the icon of said device from said another information processing unit (col. 7, lines 55-63) and said control means obtains an icon corresponding to said first information and superposes and displays the icon on the obtained map data [Fig. 12, shows the printer (device) 284 as icon indicating the device on the map data (col. 19, lines 58-63)].

As to claim 7, refer to claim 1 rejection for their common feature. Salgado further discloses that the device is a device which the job is output [a printer (device) that is processing a job ticket (Fig. 12)].

As to claim 9, Salgado further discloses a device for processing a job requested via a network, comprising:

storing means for storing hierarchical location information hierarchically indicating a location of said device [As shown in Fig. 12, a location information of a printer (device) and in Fig. 16, one of the attributes that is indicated for device



is location. The attributes are hierarchical in order (col. 18, lines 10-12) and the attributes are stored on a server (col. 7, lines 55-63) (storing means)].

judgment means for judging status of a requested job [the status of the printer (device) associated with the job is determined and sent to the user (col. 20, lines 37-48, col. 22, lines 57-61)]; and

control means for transmitting first information indicating judged job status and second information containing said hierarchical location information according to a request from another device on said network [the status and location of the printer is transmitted to the user work station (another device) and displayed (col. 20; lines 37-47) based on a user search (request) (col. 22, lines 44-46)].

As to claim 11, refer to claims 7& 9 rejection.

Claim 12 is a method analogous to the device of claim 1, arguments analogous to those applied to claim 1 are applied to claim 12.

As to claim 13, refer to claim 2 rejection.

As to claim 14, refer to claim 3 rejection.

As to claim 15, refer to claim 4 rejection.

As to claim 16, refer to claim 5 rejection.

As to claim 17, refer to claim 6 rejection.

Claim 18 is a method analogous to the device of claim 7, arguments analogous to those applied to claim 7 are applied to claim 18.

As to claim 20, refer to claim 9 rejection.



As to claim 22, refer to claim 11 rejection.

Claim 23 is storage medium analogous to the device of claim 1, arguments analogous to those applied to claim 1 are applied to claim 23.

Claim 24 is storage medium analogous to the device of claim 7, arguments analogous to those applied to claim 7 are applied to claim 24.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 8,10, 19,21,35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salgado et al (US Patent 5,872,569)as applied to claim 7 above and in view of Sekizawa et al. [US. Pat. No. 6,430,711].

As to claim 8, Salgado discloses a device for processing a job requested via a network, comprising:

first storing means for storing hierarchical location information hierarchically indicating a location of said device [As shown in Fig. 12; a location information of printer (device) and in Fig. 16, one of the attributes that is indicated for a device is location. The attribute are shown in terms of a pull down menus disposed in hierarchical order (col. 18, lines 10-12), the attributes are stored on a server (first storing) means (col. 7, lines 55-63).

control means for transmitting first information indicating an event to be notified and second information containing said hierarchical location

information to said notice destination address at an occurrence of said event [status of the printer whether is operable or out of order (event to be notified) is sent to the user work station (notice destination address) (col. 20, lines 37-48, col. 22, lines 57-61) and is displayed along with the location information of the printer (device) as shown in Fig. 12].

Salgado notifies the user workstation (notice destination address) about the status of the printer (event to be notified regarding the requested job) (col. 20, lines 37-48).

Salgado does not explicitly disclose second storing means for storing an event to be notified regarding the requested job and its notice destination address being associated with each other;

Sekizawa discloses a printing system where the status information indicating the state of each printer is stored in a status log data file along with destination mail address (abstract, fig. 23).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Sekizawa's teachings to modify Salgado's device by storing the status information (event to be notified regarding the requested job) and its notice destination address in a log file (second storing) means in order to monitor the status of the printers and maintain them at comparatively low cost.

As to claim 10, refer to claims 7& 9 rejection.

Claim 19 is a method analogous to the device of claim 8, arguments analogous to those applied to claim 8 are applied to claim 19.

As to claim 21, refer to claim 10 rejection.


Claim 25 is storage medium analogous to the device of claim 8, arguments analogous to those applied to claim 8 are applied to claim 25.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hieu Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-3101. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Harvey, can be reached on (703) 305-9703. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-9051.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Hieu Le


JACK B. HARVEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER